

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0872

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EEWT UR GV

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE KAISER PARTICIPATION IN SOVIET ALUMINUM PROJECT

REF: MOSCOW 8444

1. RE PARA 6-B, BEST INFORMATION WE CAN DEVELOP IS THAT SOVIETS WILL HAVE TO PAY NEW GUINEAN EXPORT TAX ON BAUXITE FROM THEIR OFFICE DES BAUXITES DE KINDIA (OBK) FACILITY. THIS BAUXITE HAS BEEN OBTAINED BY SOVIETS AT THE THEORETICAL CONTRACT PRICE OF \$6.50 PER TON. NEW TAX WILL PROBABLY ADD ABOUT \$4.50 PER TON FOR TOTAL THEORETICAL COST OF \$11.00.

2. IMPOSSIBLE TO CALCULATE REAL COST TO SOVIETS BECAUSE OF COMPLEXITY AND SECRECY OF THEIR AGREEMENT WITH GOG. FINANCIAL TERMS ARE RELATED TO SOVIET AID PROGRAM AND AMORTIZATION OF SUBSTANTIAL GOG DEBTS TO USSR. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, WE WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT SOVIETS COULD OBTAIN GUINEAN BAUXITE FOR THEIR NIKOLAYEV-KRASNOYARSK PROJECT AT A REAL COST TO THEM BELOW WORLD MARKET PRICES. CAPACITY OF OBK FACILITY IS UNDERSTOOD TO BE 2.5 TO 3 MILLION TONS PER YEAR AND RESERVES HAVE BEEN ESTIMATED AT 43 MILLION TONS OF BAUXITE WITH AVERAGE CONTENT 48PERCENT ALUMINA.

HARROP

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Message Attributes

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